(b) and (c) While no contingency plan has been drawn up by Government, it is the constant endeavour of Government to encourage domestic airlines to achieve their full potential and increase their viability.

Drill in case of terrorist attack

2648. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Team set up, after terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York on 11th September, 2001, comprising representatives from various Ministries to deal with such an exigency, is yet to be given a go ahead for formalisation of a drill to be followed in such cases;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the drill is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Task Force was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri H.S. Khola, former DGCA, which consisted of representatives from Indian Air Force and Airports Authority of India. The Task Force has since submitted its report and its recommendations are in various stages of implementation.

Loss suffered by AI

2649. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "AI losses Rs. 2 crore in a day due to London mess-up" which appeared in a newspaper on January 30th, 2003 Mumbai Edition;

(b) whether any inquiry has been ordered regarding the loss incurred by Air India; and

(c) if so, whether the inquiry has been completed and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As informed by Air India, on 8th January, 2003 their flights AI-102, AI-122 and AI-111 were stranded at Heathrow airport, London due to bad weather conditions and resultant severe congestion at Heathrow airport, London and also due to cabin crew duty time limitations. Though the exact quantam of loss is difficult to quantify, the estimated additional expenditure may be in the range of Rs. 1.5 crores to Rs. 1.75 crores.

(c) A Committee has been constituted to enquire into the reasons resulting in multiple delays and to suggest remedial action so as to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Guidelines on ground handling at International Airports

2650. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh guidelines have been issued for ground handling at the four major international airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private parties who had bid for the same earlier been debarred; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) On account of security considerations and in order to streamline the policy on ground handling services so as to achieve world class standards and to minimize the number of agencies performing ground handling operations at airports, the Government has taken a decision to suitably revise the Airports Authority of India (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulation, 2000 and to provide